

We welcomed Sam Morrow as our new council person in January. Sam had been an active attendant of many council meetings and quite a few of the committee meetings prior to being elected and taking an official position in January. In the short month that Sam has been officially involved I appreciate his perspective and energy for the job. He will be a tremendous asset over the next four years in helping promote and shape our Village.

We also had an opening on the board of Planning and Zoning. Due to personal reasons Dan Gyure submitted his resignation. Dan always made decisions based on conviction and was a strong proponent for improving and growing our Village. He was a pleasure to work with and will be missed. We wish him the best. This position will be filled by Dave Dietrich who has years of experience in the Village as well as holding the position of Geauga County planning director. Dave will bring tremendous value to our board of Planning and Zoning. I look forward to working with Sam and Dave.

Over the past few weeks I've attended several meetings which were regional (county) in nature. Attendance was comprised of local elected officials, state and local employees as well as representatives of the Amish community. The meetings were different in content as some were based on public safety and logistics and others were based on how we collectively improve and grow the commerce in our area. Although the cultures are different the goals are common. I look forward to continuing to work with these individuals as we set goals and achieve them.

2016 is showing to be a very busy year for our director of Economic Development. We've had more interest this year in potential investment and expansion in the Village than any of the past four years. It is very competitive and fortunately we have equipped ourselves with some tools that help set us apart. We will be working very hard to make opportunities that provide amenities and quality employment a reality. I hope in the next few months we will be providing details to these perspective projects.

Our February council meeting provided the opportunity to acknowledge some individuals that have achieved special milestones. The first was Pauline Fritinger who celebrated her 100th birthday. We had prepared a congratulatory proclamation and expected her nephew Larry to accept then deliver to her. To our surprise Pauline attended in person on this a cold bitter night. She was a tremendously gracious recipient and was an inspiration to all of us. She relayed that she was so excited about attending and being recognized she could not eat her dinner. We all need to retain that energy and zest for life. What a positive attitude and I wish her many more healthy years.

The second group was our Middlefield Recreation varsity wrestlers.

Eight of the 11 wrestlers made it to districts held at Austintown Fitch. I was able to attend and watch these wrestlers, coaches and parents in action. The dedication of the coaches and parents for their children was a pleasure to watch. It is involvement like this that produces the most valuable asset we have as a country, a strong family unit where character building is the focus. I know this takes energy and time that today is at a premium but your efforts will be rewarded. I thank you for your willingness to help shape our future leaders. (View photos of these acknowledgements in the photo gallery.)

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